



US Forest Service

Rim Fire Recovery

Weekly Update

Date: September 2, 2014

General Background:

The Rim Fire started in August 2013 and burned 257,314 acres, including 154,530 acres on the Stanislaus National Forest. Burned Area Emergency Response work to address immediate hazards has been completed with the exception of storm patrol and monitoring. The Stanislaus National Forest has produced:

1. An environmental assessment (EA) for hazard tree removal along 194 miles of high use Forest Service roads, administrative and recreation facilities, and areas adjacent to private infrastructure. The EA includes 10,315 acres of NFS lands, of which 8,986 acres are along roads. The Rim HT EA Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact were signed on April 25, 2014. Implementation soon followed.
2. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rim Fire Recovery Project proposes to lessen the potential for future catastrophic fire by reducing the fuel loading and capture the perishable economic value of the fire killed trees through timber salvage. Up to 33,083 acres that will be available for salvage when combined with the additional hazard tree removal. The EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) are available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43033. Implementation is scheduled for early September.

Update for the week of September 2, 2014:

Director:

- New Forest Supervisor, Jeanne Higgins, starts Wednesday.
- Barbara Drake, the new Rim Fire Recovery Director, reports on Sept. 8.
- ROD was signed August 29 and notifications were made to stakeholders.

Engineering:

- One BLM survey crew is on the forest this week working on Phase 4 Rim Fire Land Lines.

Forestry:

- Nothing new to report.

Communications:

- Forest PAO is now supervising the information shop.
- Recovery PAO sent out EIS rollout news release to stakeholders and media.
- Recovery PAO completed several media interviews and led Kiwanis Tour on Friday the 29th.
- Recovery PAO will meet with the Groveland Garden Club on Monday the 8th.
- Media interest has been high throughout the rollout process. One ordered PIO is still here to help with EIS rollout.
- Sept. version of the Rim Fire Recovery newspaper will be out soon.
- Stanislaus National Forest Facebook page created – search under “The Forest Service – Stanislaus National Forest.”



Susan Skalski, Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor, signs the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Rim Fire Recovery Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) August 28, 2014

Questions about Rim Fire Recovery efforts? Please contact:
Rim Fire Recovery Information (209) 432-3709.